

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated June 3, 2005 have been considered. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Summary of the Final Office Action

Claims 2-9, 14-16, and 20-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sariti (U.S. Patent No. 3,079,472) in view of Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 4,969,196) and further in view of Lee et al. (GB 2,278,251) or Numa (JP 344118299). Applicants traverse each and every one of these rejections, at least for the following reasons.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended each of the pending independent claims to recite that “the rectangular frame has a stepped interior surface and an upper lip overhanging beyond the perimeters of the top plate, the plate-shaped magnet, and the back plate.” An example of this type of structure is shown in Figs. 2-4 of the instant application. Specifically, the overhanging nature of the frame 6 can be seen in Figs. 2-4 and the stepped interior surface of frame 6 can be understood from at least Fig. 4. Applicants submit that such recited claim structure is neither shown nor suggested by any of the applied references of record.

A goal of the present invention is to provide a speaker unit in which a magnet of the speaker unit has a larger volume so that the magnetic flux to be applied to the voice coil will have a larger density. Due to the magnetic circuit of the present invention being shorter in its longer axis and narrower in its shorter axis than the frame structure 6, the speaker unit of the present invention is capable of fitting into a cabinet space small enough to accommodate a conventional speaker unit while at the same time having a higher sensitivity than a conventional speaker unit. As stated at page 6, line 15 - page 7, line 2, of the instant application:

It is understood . . . that with the use of the present invention, the magnet of a speaker unit is allowed to be made larger than prior art so that the magnetic flux to be applied to the voice coil will have a higher density than prior art, thereby enabling a speaker unit to obtain an improved sensitivity. * * * Further, since the magnetic circuit in the present invention is shorter in its longer axis and narrower in its shorter axis than a frame structure for supporting a vibrating diaphragm, a cabinet (into which the speaker unit is to be received) is required to have only a small volume which may be the same as that of a cabinet for a conventional speaker unit (having a cylindrical magnetic circuit), but achieving a higher sensitivity than a conventional speaker unit.

Applicants submit that the applied art of record does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in each of the pending independent claims, which each require that the rectangular frame must both have (1) a stepped interior surface and (2) an upper lip overhanging beyond the perimeters of the top plate, the plate-shaped magnet, and the back plate. The advantages of such structure, which can be understood from the comments provided above, are not provided for by the applied art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections applied in the pending Office Action. A favorable action is awaited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of pending claims 2-9, 14-16, and 20-29 are in condition for allowance, and a notice of such is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required,

including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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